

Republic of Kazakhstan

**FY 2002 QUARTERLY REPORT (4th Quarter)
CA 119-A-00-00-00039**

**Submitted to the
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
by the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES)**

July 1, 2002 – September 30, 2002

I. PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

Civic Education Curriculum Development

During the final quarter of 2002, IFES/Kazakhstan received approval from the Ministry of Education and Science for the latest edition of its grade 10-11 student civic education textbook to be printed and used in existing and new schools identified to teach the civics course. The Ministry also sent letters to oblast and city education offices enlisting their assistance in contacting schools to add to the pool of 350 already participating in the civics course project. It was expected that up to 200 additional schools could be added for the 2002-03 school year.

The revised textbook text, along with the Teacher's Manual, was made available in Russian and Kazakh. An English language version is also available. IFES/Kazakhstan staff members Marat Bigaliev, Dina Hasenova, and Almaz Bizhigitov were instrumental in the revision of all materials, with assistance provided by Program Assistant Irina Volchansky of IFES/Washington and other, locally-based contributors and partners.

After making arrangements for the book's layout and other logistical issues, IFES/Kazakhstan printed 18,700 copies of the textbook by the beginning of the school year and shipped the majority of them to regional centers for distribution to the schools that will be teaching the civics course. Not only did IFES send an average of 50 copies to each of the new schools, but it also replaced older copies from two and three years ago. Four hundred Russian-language and 300 Kazakh-language copies of the Teacher's Manual were also printed with the assistance of the local Junior Achievement Printing Co. to be distributed along with the textbooks.

Two hundred new schools (92 Kazakh-language, 82 Russian-language and 26 mixed schools) indicated a desire to introduce the IFES Civics Course in the 2002 – 2003 school year. This brings the number of schools planning to use the IFES course during the new school year to approximately 550. Such positive developments in regard to enthusiasm shown by schools and support provided by the Ministry of Education give hope that this IFES civic education initiative will evolve into a nationwide program in all Kazakhstani schools.

Teacher Training

During Q4-02 IFES conducted teacher training sessions for the new schools and organized additional sessions for October and November. For October and the first half of November, IFES scheduled 14 training sessions for new teachers in Astana, Aktau, Almaty, Aktobe, Kokshetau, Kostanai, Petropavlovsk, Oskemen, Pavlodar, Semey, Shymkent, Taldy-Korgan, Karaganda and Zhezkazgan. Such expansion of the training program is necessary to sustain the growth of schools interested in teaching IFES civic education course and requiring knowledge of proper approaches and skills to present it to students. All new schools and teachers teaching the IFES civic education course and textbook undergo training in Interactive Classroom Methodology techniques, which IFES is employing in this project. Teachers are the single most critical component in the

process of instruction, and IFES ensures that teachers received hands-on training prior to the course being implemented in a given school. Supported by the Ministry of Education and the Institute for Raising of Teacher's Qualifications, the teachers practiced delivery of the textbook concepts through role-playing and simulations, which have proven to be an effective way to spark student interest, participation and learning.

Democracy Summer Camp Held

During Q4-02, in partnership with the Association of Young Leaders (AYL), IFES/Kazakhstan conducted a second Democracy Summer Camp (DSC) outside of Oskemen. The event, held from August 5 through August 13, included participation of 69 students from 29 schools of eastern Kazakhstan, 5 teachers, and staff from IFES and AYL. Of the students who participated, there were 41 girls and 28 boys, predominantly from 10-11th grades, with some from 8th and 9th grades.

Along with trainer-led student discussions on various topics concerning the issue of what makes a society democratic, and what students can do to contribute to the democratic development of their country, several organizations made specific presentations during the Summer Camp:

- The Association of Young Leaders discussed youth leadership and activism;
- The NGO consulting center "ZUBR" talked about development of business culture and professional ethics of NGOs, government organizations and social partnership;
- The women's NGO "Status" made a presentation on gender issues.

High level officials also showed their support by attending. The senior specialist on civic education and children rights' protection, Mrs. Aigul Dorzhanova and the Head of the Oskemen city Department of Education, Mrs. Galina Bolgova visited and observed the camp activities, thus showing that there is an interest among local Education officials in IFES civic education programming.

The Camp proved to be a success and reached its goals of improving students' knowledge of civic rights and education and introducing the concept of Student Action Committees (SACs) through games, presentations and training seminars. Students departed the Summer Camp more enthusiastic and motivated, and IFES will continue working with them through SACs and other student initiatives, monitoring their progress, as possible, incrementally.

Student Activities

By the end of Q4-02, IFES had planned out the scheduled for its 2002-03 Student Local Government Day (SLGD) and Student Action Committee (SAC) series, and included this as part of its new workplan proposal. In keeping with an incremental increase in its benchmarks, IFES planned to expand both initiatives for the new school year in order to involve and benefit a greater number of students in expanded regions of the country.

Student Local Government Day activities during Year 3 will continue in Atyrau, Pavlodar, Karaganda, and will be initiated in Shymkent, Kostanai, Oskemen and Lisakovsk, where up to 180 students are expected to participate.

IFES anticipates SAC activities to continue in Aktau, Aksu, Aktobe, Atyrau, Karaganda, Kostanai, Lisakovsk, Petropavlovsk and Pavlodar in 2002-2003, and will expand the activity include participation of up to 800 students from Semey, Oskemen, Taldy-Korgan, Kzyl-Orda, Shymkent, Taraz and Almaty during this workplan period.

IFES will work with schoolteachers to monitor and measure the effectiveness of the SACs and SLGDs by following up on the work of select students throughout the school year. While IFES has been able to record quantitative information about the results of the student activities, qualitative information on medium- and longer-term results has not been as easy to track. As a result, IFES will work to evaluate the performance of some students in terms of their classroom and extracurricular efforts throughout the year to get a better idea of their activities in volunteerism and participation and interest in school government and community interests.

Reporting

Throughout the quarter IFES/Kazakhstan prepared a number of reports on its project activities during 2001-02, tracking the numbers and locations of events and participants. IFES completed reports on Student Action Committees (SACs) and two IFES Democracy Summer Camps (DSC) conducted this summer in Kazakhstan. The SAC report describes in greater detail what these entities are and how they work, while the DSC report presents the content of the summer camp programs and discusses the impact of program's activities on knowledge and civic activism of participants. In addition, IFES prepared a general report with profiles of all projects currently undertaken by the office in Kazakhstan.

The SAC and DSC reports are part of the series of reports intended to explain the purpose and content of IFES programming in Kazakhstan. The first two reports covered the IFES Civic Education Tournament/Olympiad and the Student Local Government Day (SLGD) programs. All of the reports are available in three languages: Russian, Kazakh, and English. Given informational value of the reports, these materials will be useful for government officials, NGOs, teachers, and students who are interested in existing IFES programs and would like to learn more about them in order to either take participation in them or to cooperate with IFES on organizing similar projects in their locale.

IFES/Central Asia Regional Meeting in Almaty

On August 12-13, 2002 Program Managers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan met with IFES/Washington staff in Almaty to discuss current activities, the upcoming workplan, and new reporting requirements. The meeting was held to allow the PMs to discuss common issues and problems and compare lessons learned, which would be applied to the benefit of their respective programs.

The meeting proved to be very productive and beneficial for the operation of all three IFES/CAR offices, as it gave a chance for IFES/Washington D.C. and local staff to exchange information about the types of issues both sides deal with and improve overall efficiency of the operation. Visiting IFES staff also met with USAID to discuss present and upcoming programming.

II. MATERIALS PRODUCED

- IFES/Kazakhstan SAC Report
- IFES/Kazakhstan DSC Report
- IFES/Kazakhstan Project Program Profiles
- 18,700 copies of the newly revised civic education textbook, in Russian and Kazakh
- 700 copies of the newly revised teachers' manual, in Russian and Kazakh

III. ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

During the final quarter of fiscal year 2002, no substantial issues or problems were encountered by IFES/Kazakhstan. The only complication IFES/Kazakhstan dealt with was the merger of the two companies who have been hired to print the IFES civics textbook and teacher's manual – Kitap and Dayir. The merger impacted the timing of the publishing of the newly revised textbook and teachers' manual resulting in a slight delay in printing and, subsequently, distribution. Additionally, the Kitap printing company was unable to locate the sum provided by USIS to the Dayir printing company in February 2002 and, as a result, withheld some of the printed IFES textbooks. However, with IFES intervention, Kitap was finally able to acknowledge the receipt of money and released the IFES materials. Regardless of this delay, textbooks and teachers' manuals were received by schools in a manner timely enough not to compromise the school schedule.